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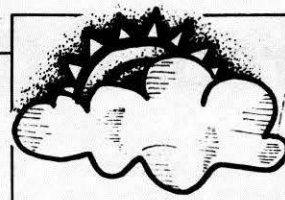
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TUESDAY

Partly cloudy,
chance of showers
high in mid-80s

Coach: Running game better

By Brad McElhinny
Sports Editor

Incomplete pass. Incomplete pass. Sixty-eight yard touchdown run.

It's wasn't exactly the opening series Marshall football fans are accustomed to, but it was the way things went in Saturday's 49-7 Herd win over Morehead State.

While Morehead double-teamed top Herd receiver Troy Brown, Marshall quarterbacks completed 12 of 27 passes for 182 yards. Herd running backs picked up the slack, rushing 46 times

for 296 yards.

"I wasn't discouraged we didn't complete more passes," Coach Jim Donnan said. "We're just so used to completing about 60 percent."

"Our running game was better than it's ever been. We're so much better run-blocking than we've ever been."

The Herd's long bombs often grab more attention than the team's running game, but senior tailback Orlando Hatchett said he doesn't mind.

"No matter what, we're prepared in case we're called on," said Hatchett, who ran for 117 yards including the 68-

yard opening touchdown.

Five Herd players ran for at least 15 yards. Another, sophomore Chris Grose, scored on a one-yard touchdown run.

"It feels great to be able to rotate the burden," Hatchett said, "to not put it all on one shoulder."

The team seemed sluggish in the first half when The Herd held a 17-7 lead, players said.

"We were pressing, playing for ourselves," linebacker Shannon King said. "In the second half we relaxed. That's

Please see GAME, Page 6



By Chris Hancock

Ricky Carter catches a touchdown pass from Todd Donnan.

Renovation completion planned for spring

By Cheryl J. Wilson
Reporter

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies come and go for the Science Building, and after 15 years of work, it's still not finished.

But officials say the building will be completed by this spring.

Construction was divided into phases: The first, completed in the mid-1980s, was the construction of an annex; the second, which included renovation of the first and second floors, was finished last year; work on the third and fourth floors as well as construction of a chemical storage building now is under way.

The renovations haven't been without their drawbacks.

Several departments within the College of Science have been spread across campus for the past several years, with students and faculty often having to cope with having classes in one building and offices in another.

"Currently, the chemistry department is the only displaced department," said Dr. Daniel Babb, chairman of the Department of Chemistry.

Nine of the department's 11 faculty members still have offices in Northcott Hall.

Students also have to share laboratory space.

"Seven students have to share one drawer, and it's been inconvenient," Babb said.

Complaints are few because students expect problems.

"Sometimes the noise is an inconvenience. You can hardly hear the professor," Chris Marcus, Man junior, said.

Dr. K. Edward Grose, vice president for administration, estimated the cost of renovation to be \$24 million.

Making a splash



By Chris Hancock

Kelsey M. Gregg, 5, daughter of Jenny S. Gregg, Ashland, Ky., junior, finds some relief from the heat by playing in the Memorial Student Center fountain.

Alliance to protect relief aid

ROME (AFP) — The defense ministers of Italy, France and Spain met Monday and discussed the possibility of creating a combined naval and air strike force to be under the command of the Western European Union.

A joint statement said the ministers had considered "the possibility" of creating "a standing European naval and air force, ready to respond to any WEU-requested mission."

The three nations have increased naval cooperation during combined maneuvers and while taking part in the sea-bound U.N. embargo of former Yugoslavia, the statement said.

A joint statement signed by Salvo Ando, Pierre Joxe and Julian Garcia Vargas also underlined "the need to guarantee the security of humanitarian operations" in former Yugoslavia and "firmly condemned" the shooting down of an Italian relief plane near the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo on Thursday.

"The adoption of a series of measures concerning the escort of overland convoys, the supervision of heavy weapons and the embargo imposed on Serbia and Montenegro would significantly increase the delivery of humanitarian aid," the joint statement said.

New strips beat old favorites

By Jennifer Pritt
Reporter

The world of comic strips often involves adventure, comedy and a different way of looking at life.

The way the creator looks at the world — either positively or negatively — evolves into a character or a situation to which a reader can relate.

Older strips, like "Blondie" and "Peanuts" still hold a tender spot in the hearts of many readers, but they slowly are becoming out-

flanked by the likes of "Calvin and Hobbes" and "The Far Side," which mix healthy doses of reality with fantasy.

And that has become the recipe for a big hit with readers.

"I like 'The Far Side' because it gives weird objectives to an everyday action or situation," Tara Sartin, Huntington sophomore, said. "Almost everyone at one time

Please see STRIPS, Page 6



Scared of the future, horrified by the past

Giving a slug a Morton shower had never affected me this way.

The miserable gob-like creature slowly transformed into a black snot wad, and I watched — powerless to undo the evil deed now done.

I would almost swear I heard a tiny voice cry out, "It's not bad enough I'm a slug, you had to pour salt on me, macho man." It haunts me. I dream about it. It sleeps in my hat.

Ten years ago, I walked away from my last slug-melting, feeling god-like. Now, I only feel guilty.

This same scenario has been repeated of late with alarming frequency. I travel to the past to do something I once presumed to be great, and upon confronting my hallucinations, I discover them to be untrue.

For example, after a long day

in the hot sun playing ball tag, nothing hit the spot like a lukewarm Yoo-Hoo. Needless to say, now it's not nearly as refreshing.

Nor is "Welcome Back Kotter" funny — at all. But, don't take my word for it, try to sit through an episode yourself.

And, last week when I wore my old Spider-Man Underoos, I was at no point during the day compelled to show my colorful panties to my friends like I used to be. Actually, I was kind of embarrassed.

Even hiding in my closet eating an entire can of cake frosting wasn't much fun.

It seems everything I ever found worthwhile and fulfilling is lame, with the possible exception of "The Brady Bunch," which I could still watch 24 hours a day.

So, I look to the future.

The ramifications are horrifying.

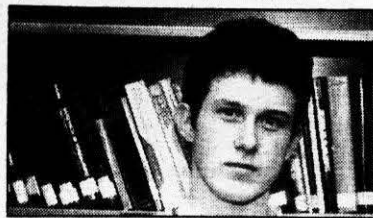
Ten years from now I'll look back and declare everything I enjoy a waste of time.

"What did I ever see in Right Said Fred," I might say. Or, "Why did I ever go to college? Well, I sure as hell didn't get enough out of it to make a damn donation (the Alumni Association shudders)."

And, say this cycle is perpetual. I'll be lying on my deathbed, desperately seeking substance, and all I'll be able to say to all who gather to watch me kick off is, "Well, I say, the highlight of my life... I say, the highlight of my life, boy, was 'The Brady Bunch.'"

(I envision myself sounding a lot like Foghorn Leghorn as I die, but that's another story for another time.)

Sadly, I somehow get the



CHRIS RICE
COLUMNIST

feeling the people in the crowd at my deathbed would nod their heads in unison, understanding, like they felt the same way.

"What a waste," might be my epitaph, although if I had a choice my epitaph would be, "I wish I'd eaten first."

So why should I ever get a job or get married or even come out of my room now that I realize the horrible truth.

Everything sucks, eventually.

Cab system takes drunken drivers' car keys

By Eric Davis
Staff Writer

People who have had too much alcohol to drink now have another reason not to drink and drive in Cabell County.

A program called Alert Cab, which began Sept. 1, allows operators of drinking establishments to provide a free ride home for patrons. So far, Alert Cab kits have been distributed

to more than 150 businesses in Cabell County.

This program to reduce drunk driving is the result of a cooperative effort between the Eagle Distributing Company, HCA River Park Hospital and WKEE Radio.

"We feel we are providing a tool to diminish the drunk driving problem and make our streets safe," said Mike Garrison, president of Eagle Distributing Company.

When Alert Cab is called, the customer's car keys are placed in an envelope with the location of the customer's car and the customer's home address printed on the front. The envelope is then given to the cab driver, who returns the keys when they reach the customer's home.

This program also has the support of the local prosecutor. "If people are out at a restaurant or a bar, they can call a

cab if they are too drunk," said Chris Chiles, prosecuting attorney.

Chiles' office has a 95 percent conviction rate for more than 1,000 DUI cases brought to court between July 1991 and July 1992.

Sharla Meade, substance abuse counselor at Marshall, said that a sufficient number of students drive to bars to make the program useful on campus.

The Parthenon

Volume 104 ■ Number 3

The Parthenon, Marshall University's daily newspaper, is published by students Tuesday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters.

Responsibility for news and editorial content lies solely with the editor.

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Police kill 14 in South Africa

By **BARRY RENFREW**
Associated Press Writer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Security forces in the black homeland of Ciskei opened fire Monday on thousands of African National Congress supporters marching to protest the government, killing at least 14 people.

Ciskei Defense Chief Brig. Marius Oelschig told the South African Press Association security forces began shooting after being attacked by a group of marchers armed with handguns and grenades.

After two bursts of gunfire, Ciskei forces hurled tear gas at the demonstrators, who began fleeing. Politicians

on hand to monitor the march, including top ANC officials, dived for cover.

A total of 140 people suffered gunshot wounds, and 47 people were injured by razor wire or other objects.

The ANC considers Ciskei and the three other "independent" homelands vestiges of apartheid run by puppets of South Africa's white-minority government, and it has demanded their reincorporation into South Africa.

SAPA said the first of two bursts of gunfire erupted when the marchers stormed through a back entrance of a stadium on Bisho's outskirts. More shooting broke out a few minutes later, after protesters began ripping down razor wire erected to contain the march,

The Ciskei government originally banned the march, but a Ciskei magistrate gave permission today on condition marchers go to a stadium near Bisho. The ANC rejected the restriction.

Talks on a new constitution that would share power with the black majority have been stalled since the ANC pulled out of talks in June to protest violence in black townships.

Police said today that at least 26 people were killed during the weekend in various parts of South Africa in some of the worst political violence in recent weeks. Three police officers were among the dead, but authorities gave few details.

Iraqi destruction plant 'satisfactory'

BAGHDAD (AFP) - The facilities built by Iraq to destroy its chemical weapons are "satisfactory" but still have to be tested, the head of a U.N. inspection team said here Monday.

"The construction of the plant is complete but we have to test them, each piece" before the facilities are used, Ron Manley said at the al-Muthanna site, 80 miles north of Baghdad.

The British chemical expert said the facilities were found to be "satisfactory so far." The design had been discussed by the two sides before Iraq built the destruction plant, he said.

The inspection team arrived in Baghdad to dismantle Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under U.N. ceasefire resolutions after the Gulf War.

The head of a nuclear mission which left Iraq earlier Monday, Maurizio Zifferero, said destruction of the country's nuclear program was almost complete and emphasis would switch to long-term monitoring.

Baboon liver patient dies after 10 weeks

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A doctor who helped transplant a baboon liver into a man said he hoped the patient's death after 10 weeks wouldn't end efforts to develop animals as a source of organs for humans.

The 35-year-old man, whose name has not been made public, died Sunday after suffering a stroke as doctors at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center tried to wean him from a respirator.

Dr. Howard R. Doyle said the cause of the stroke wasn't known. The man suffered a blood infection and loss of liver function, but appeared to be improving when the stroke hit, Doyle said.

"We still don't have enough information. We'll know more in the next couple of days," Doyle said.

Due to advertising error, the address and telephone number of Electric Sun was left out of their ad. We regret the error.



ELECTRIC SUN 1323 4th Ave.
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Please look for Electric Sun's Semester Specials in Friday, Sept. 4 football issue of The Parthenon

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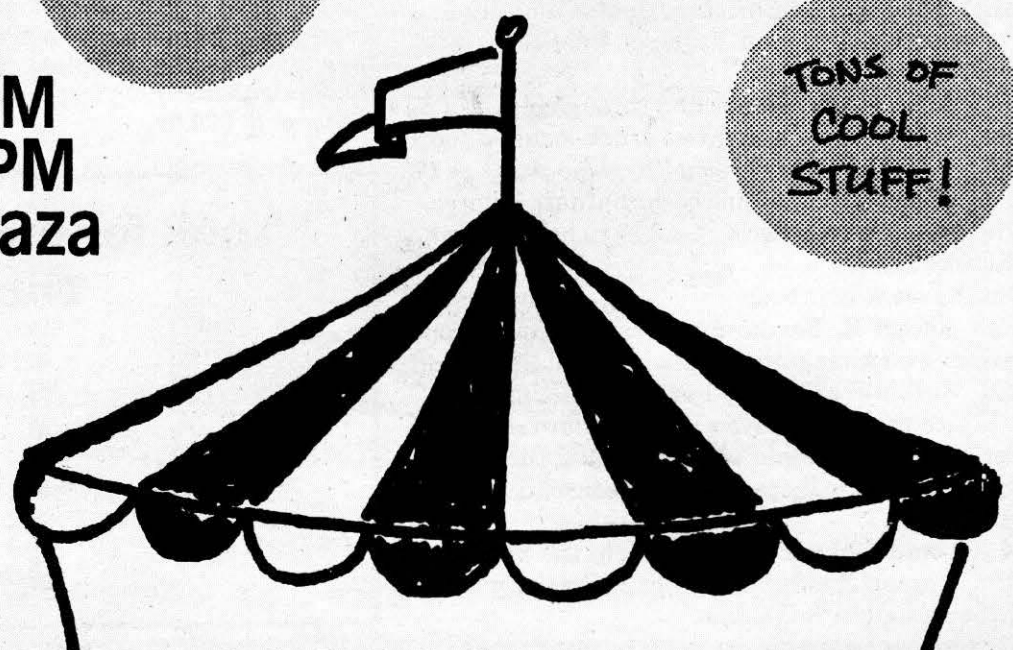
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Please see Annmarie Merrit immediately in order to participate! (2W38 MSC, 696-6770.)



opinion

The Parthenon

TUESDAY, Sept. 8, 1992

Page 4

our view

Cracking down on the big scam

▼ The Issue: Financial aid checks were delivered 20 days late so the university could reduce the number of recipients who take the money and run.

Once again, university officials favored the minority over the majority.

But first, in all fairness, they do deserve some credit.

After all, they did crack down on a campus-wide scam. You know, the one where students take their financial aid money and suddenly decide to withdraw from school.

Come on. Everyone knows about it.

Everyone, that is, except financial aid recipients who depend on this income for textbooks, rent and other necessities.

Because of the new policy, 1,669 financial aid checks were held until Sept. 2 — 20 days after students had expected them to be distributed.

Officials said this policy was approved so the university would not be liable to the federal government for those financial aid recipients withdrawing before Sept. 2 who simply take the money and run.

Unfortunately, there probably have been a few instances of students running off with their money without ever intending to take a class.

But should 1,669 students be forced to pay the price for a scam implemented by a few? And if students do take the money and run, is it really Marshall's fault?

In both cases, the impression given is "yes."

The burden should be on the scheming student and the federal government, not the university and those who simply can't afford to pay for school without that financial aid.

Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be the case — or so we're told.

Instead, measures were taken to make the process easier for the university and the government, with little done to consider the student.

Sure, the Marshall University Bookstore and Stationers extended financial aid recipients credit, but it's doubtful landlords, utility companies and grocery stores were that considerate.

And that system a few tried to beat, in turn, beat hundreds who hadn't even thought about it.

Groups answer call for help

▼ The Issue: A faculty member, the Christian Center and SGA headed a drive for donations.

Hurricane Andrew left a path of destruction and thousands of homeless in need of food and clothing.

In response to the devastation, Denecia Merritt-Damron, assistant professor of medical secretarial studies, the Campus Christian Center and Student Government Association began a hurricane relief drive.

With donors from campus and throughout the Tri-State, the drive collected two truck-loads of food, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items to be sent to Homestead, Fla., one of the hardest-hit areas.

The groups also collected \$2,300 to help with the relief effort.

But the work isn't over.

Rev. Robert K. Bondurant, Presbyterian campus minister, said some of the money raised at the Oct. 18 CROP Walk will go to help hurricane victims.

It's nice to see that even in these hard economic times, there are people willing to give their time, money and labor to those who have been victimized by fate.

If you would like to donate to help the hurricane victims, contact Bondurant at the Christian Center or call the American Red Cross.

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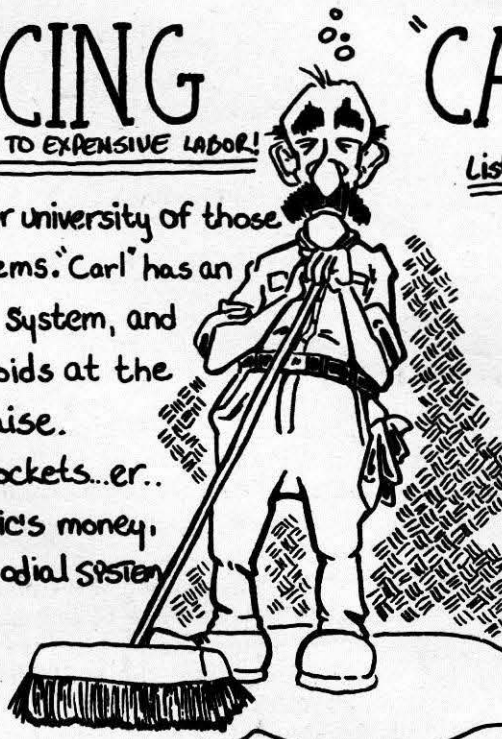
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Spotting the signs of an addiction

MIKE BELCHER
NEWS EDITOR

It's about time The Parthenon discussed something of true social importance.

I'm not talking about the lime-light stealing issues like teen pregnancy, AIDS or illiteracy.

I'm talking about a much graver issue; an issue that wreaks havoc in the homes and checkbooks of far too many Americans. I'm talking about men's obsession with power tools.

That's right, power tools!

Sure, laugh it off now, but this is a serious issue.

Men are attracted to power tools to the point of obsession. This overpowering sexual-like fetish starts off small and then grows with increasing excitement (no pun intended).

It begins in childhood.

Our society demands the ritual of fathers and grandparents giving their sons and grandsons Mattel saws, hammers and workbenches for toys.

As the boys grow older, they start collecting their first real tools: first a hammer, then a screwdriver and next a cross-cut saw.

But it's not enough. Men need more, and stores know it.

Department stores lure men into their tangled web of shiny knick-knacks and gizmos only to bleed them dry like the vampires that they are with that 129-piece ratchet set for only \$79.99.

The men are hooked now. It's in their blood, and they buy more and more hand tools to fill that cherry-red tool box of pleasure and pain.

The addiction grows stronger. To fulfill their phallic-infatuated needs, they crave to hold electric screwdrivers and nail guns.

But it's not enough. They need a stronger and stronger fix to give them that emotional rush.

Like the heroin addict that started off with an occasional puff of grass, men move up to the hard stuff — power tools.

For Christmas and birthday gifts, they ask for something small so not to attract attention to their habit. That electric sander and circular saw sound innocent enough, so wives buy them.

Then the wife looks into her husband's eyes when he opens his gifts.

Horried, she realizes what she has done as she remembers seeing that glassy-eyed look in her father.

He had the same stare years ago, sitting in his underwear Christmas morning opening gifts.

Your mother cried as your father rushed to his room to dress so he could start putting together your bicycle with his new welding set and electric staple gun.

The habit starts biting into the

checkbook, but he can't help himself.

As the years go by and the basement fills with shiny monstrosities that never have been used properly, the credit-card bills rise. Still, he needs more to fulfill his pseudo-sexual habit, but there aren't anymore tools to buy — he has them all.

Still, the lust drives him on to buy a new line of gizmos. He goes to the only thing left — electrical kitchen appliances.

This sad story of spending and sawing is only too true for many men in this society, and it's not limited to the self-reliant handyman. Unfortunately, this social disease grips the most non-mechanically inclined of the male species.

The more incompetent the abuser is, the stronger the addiction.

But don't blame the man.

It's not his fault. Like every social ill in America, it's Reagan's fault.

Reagan spurred eight years of manly John Wayne-ism, and he was the most incompetent of us all.

So next time you see a man standing in a department store and drooling at the power tools, have pity on him, slap him upside the head and vote Pritt for president.

Look for these columnists appearing regularly in
The Parthenon beginning today:

- Chris Rice
- Nandini Shastry
- Heather Oliver
- Kevin D. Melrose

Don't miss an issue. We won't.

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Program fights teenage pregnancy

By Ashley E. Day
Reporter

Teenage pregnancy is increasing each year.

Marshall has a program that is helping reduce the teenage pregnancy rate, according to Charlotte A. Edwards, adolescent pregnancy prevention specialist.

"Ten- to fourteen-year olds are becoming pregnant. Traditionally, teenagers have sex at least a year before contraceptives even cross their minds," Edwards said.

Martha G. Childers, chairwoman of the Department of Home Economics said Marshall is the sponsor of the project, but the funding comes

through the West Virginia Bureau of Health.

The project has received grants totaling \$165,000 since it started in 1989.

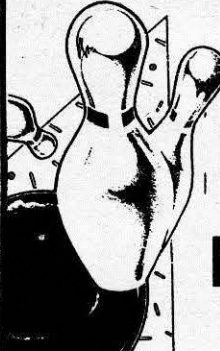
The grants have been used to provide an adolescent pregnancy specialist, educational materials, travel and other expenses for the program which covers Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo and Wayne counties.

Edwards distributes information to initiate awareness and educate communities about problems and consequences of adolescent pregnancy. She said that many parents think that sex education should be in the home. "So often parents do not think that their child is ready, but a girl can become pregnant before her first period," Edwards said.

She also said that there have been cases that fifteen- and sixteen-year olds have planned to become pregnant so they could receive assistance from the Development of Health and Human Resources. There was even a case of a young woman who found out she could get water in her home if she were pregnant.

In West Virginia alone, 60% of all teenagers are sexually active. In 1991, West Virginia teens gave birth to 3,872 infants, Edwards said.

This is the fourth year for the pregnancy prevention project, and according to Edwards, it is working.



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Student Health Education Programs Presents

SEX AND BOOZE

by
Sharla Meade
Substance Abuse Programs Coordinator

Wednesday, September 9, 1992
at 2:00pm
MSC 2W37

Part of Sexual Health Awareness Week
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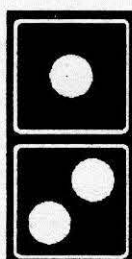
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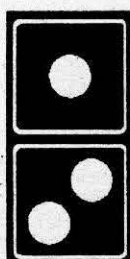
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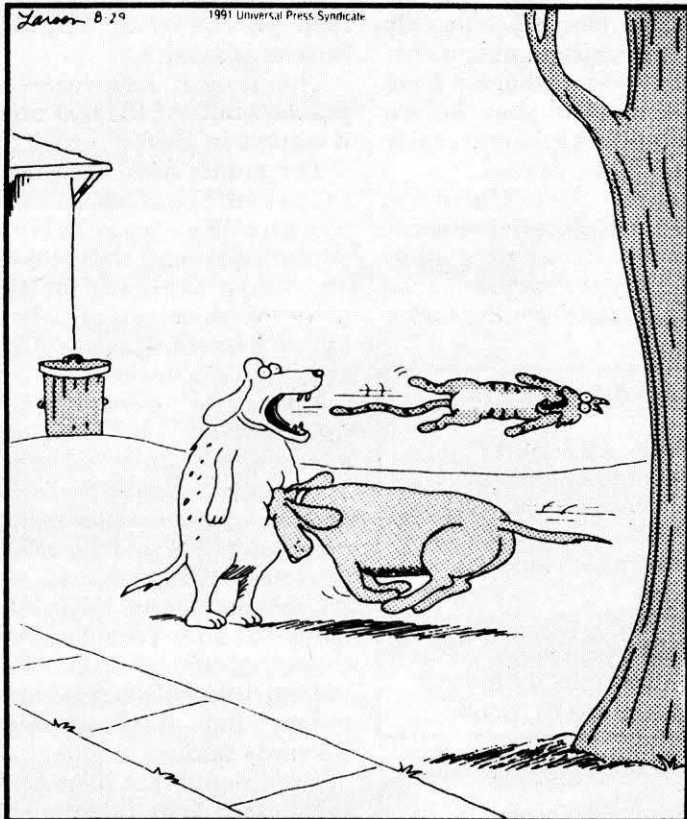
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THE FAR SIDE

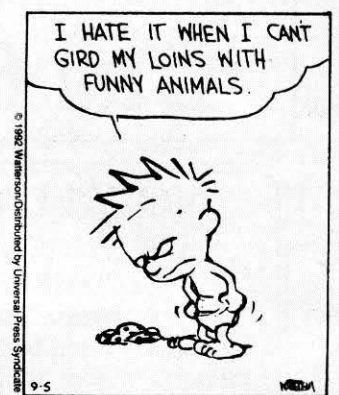
By GARY LARSON



Fortunately for Sparky, Zeke knew the famous "Rex maneuver."

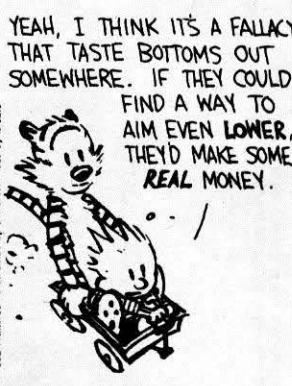
Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



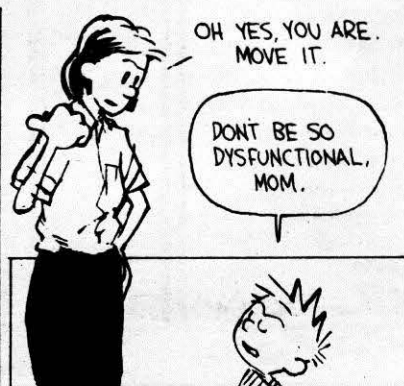
Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



GAME

From Page 1

what halftime is for."

For Marshall, Brown caught four passes for 54 yards and one touchdown. Tight end Mike Bartrum caught four passes for 58 yards. Bob Lane led the Herd in tackles with 10. Roger Johnson had nine.

Replacing third all-time leading scorer Dewey Klein, placekicker David Merrick hit both of his field goals and all four of his extra points. New punter Travis Colquitt kicked three times for a 37.6 yard average.

STRIPS

From Page 1

or another can empathize with a certain drawing 'The Far Side' puts out."

Although the old favorites still have a firm grip on the comics pages of most newspapers, a certain 6-year-old boy quickly is climbing to the top of the heap.

"The first time I read Calvin and Hobbes, I hated it," Hayden Nester, former Marshall student, said. "Somehow it grows on you with its intellectual humor mixed with Calvin's wild imagination."

Although newer comic strips are popular, some students still love the older ones.

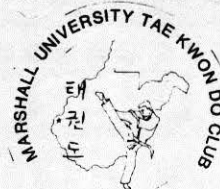
"I love 'The Lockhorns' because they remind me of my family so much," Melisa Clary, Kenova junior, said.

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FOOTBALL:

Keep watching for the football gurus contest. It'll be here soon —we promise.



By Chris Hancock

Orlando Hatchett races for the end-zone in this 68-yard touchdown run.

Hatchett ran for 117 yards in Marshall's 49-7 win over Morehead State.

Hatchett-man

'Old man' slices through defenses

By Brad McElhinny
Sports Editor

"You guys wanna see my new 'do'?" Orlando Hatchett asked the crowd surrounding him. A lift of his white visor showed his thin hair cropped within millimeters of his scalp.

"I was losing it anyhow," he said. "I figured I might as well beat nature and cut it off."

Hatchett, the only senior among Marshall's runningbacks, also is fighting time on the football field. "I'm the old guy," he says.

He's not the fastest runner, he's not the strongest, but he's still the most productive.

Thirty-three seconds into Saturday's 49-7 Herd win, he broke a couple of tackles, darted behind some screens and high-stepped 68-yards for a touchdown. "Every time I touch the ball, I want to score," he said.

"I try to use my experience. I'm not going to outrun everyone. I've got to let my blockers help me out a little. Without them I'm really nothing."

Hatchett nearly pulled off another long touchdown run later in the quarter. He had a huge hole and was running for the end-zone, but a Morehead State player dove and grabbed him on the ankle. "We almost had it," said Hatchett, a three-year starter. "It just

didn't unfold."

A few plays later, he still scored a touchdown on a two-yard run. For the game, Hatchett ran 117 yards on 10 attempts. "That's what I tried to do my senior year in high school," he said. "Just start out fast and see what happens."

Often overshadowed by Marshall's passing attack, Hatchett has rolled up impressive statistics. His 1,598 career rushing yards rank sixth in Marshall history. He's tied for seventh in career touchdowns with 18.

"He might be overlooked as far as what's written about him," Coach Jim Donnan said, "but if you look at his yards per game and the number of times he catches the ball, he's very steady."

On Saturday, Hatchett pulled through when the passing game faltered. The Herd completed 12 of 27 passes, significantly less than the 60 percent completion rate Herd fans are used to.

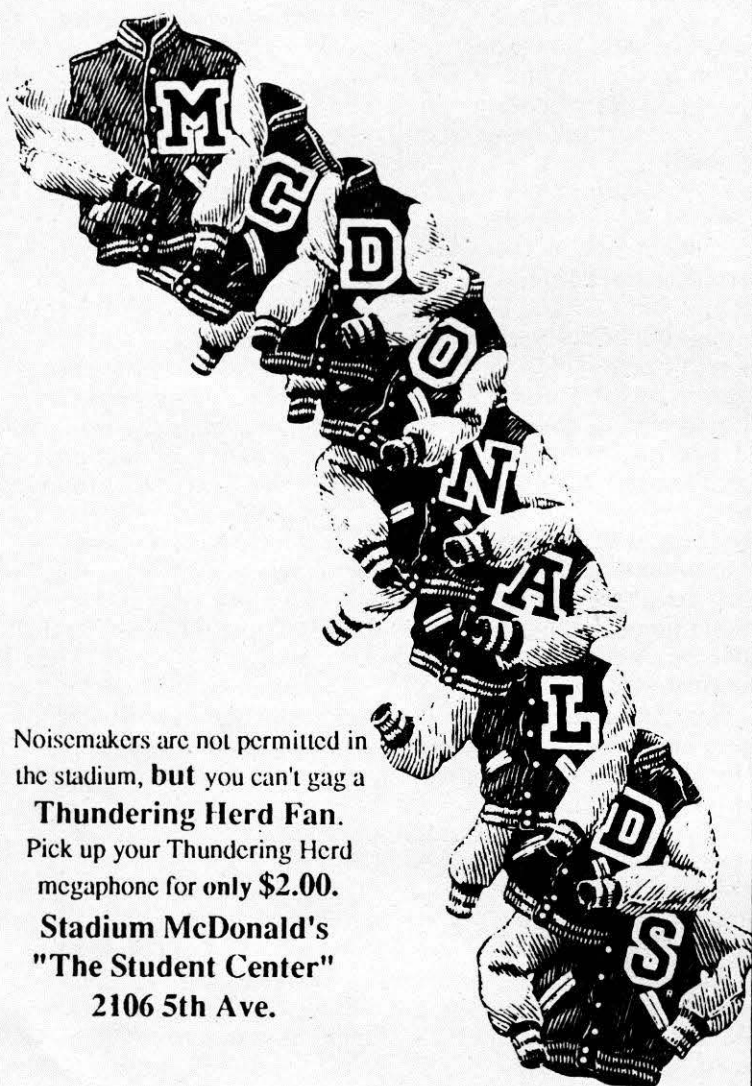
Hatchett says he's not concerned about statistics though. "I can go over 300 yards, but if we don't win it doesn't do any good."

He will have to keep performing well to keep his job. Young, talented runners like Chris Grose and Chris Parker will nip at his heels for playing time.

"Everybody's getting on me about my speed," Hatchett told the crowd. Across the room quarterback Michael Payton cracked up. "Tell him to take off his hat," Payton said. "Then you'll see how old he is."



HATCHETT



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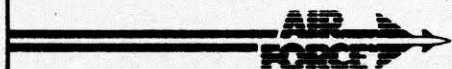
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Razorbacks' coach resigns after Citadel loss

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — It used to be that Arkansas would pummel a team like The Citadel. It used to be that Jack Crowe was Arkansas' head coach, too.

Things change fast with the Razorbacks these days.

Hours after Arkansas was embarrassed by The Citadel, Crowe resigned as Razorback football coach and defensive coordinator Joe Kines was named interim head coach.

The Razorbacks began their third season under Crowe on Saturday, losing 10-3 to the Bulldogs of Division I-AA's Southern Conference.

Crowe, hired only days after Ken Hatfield left Arkansas for Clemson in January 1990, was 3-8 in his first year and 6-6 last year, including a 24-15 loss to Georgia in the Independence Bowl.

Despite a much ballyhooed move to a one-back offense, the Razorbacks made only 287 yards against The Citadel. Attendance was 35,868, lowest at Razorback Stadium in years.

Asked if Crowe was fired, Arkansas athletic director Frank Broyles said he and Crowe agreed that the team was not "to the point where we should be at this stage."

Anne Rice's "Interview with the Vampire" is published by Innovative Corp. TM & © 1976
Anne O'Brien Rice. Contents © 1991 Anne O'Brien Rice. Published by arrangement with Alfred A. Knopf Inc.

TUESDAY, Sept. 8, 1992

Mature Readers prefer Comics with "Bite"



By Missy Rake
Lifestyles Editor

Comic books finally have grown up.

College students are tossing aside mainstream Spider-man and Batman comic books that were popular in their parents' days for more graphic and complex plots and characters.

They're buying comics from small, independent comic makers who often provide better art and create sophisticated fantasy and

science-fiction characters, said Kathleen Miller, owner of Comic World on Fourth Avenue.

"They're more for adults," said Miller, who has sold comics in Huntington for 12 years. "The stories are more involved, and they go on for months."

Mainstream comic companies such as Marvel and DC still are popular with adults who want to remember the superheroes they admired when they were kids, she said.

Innovation Corp., an independent comic company in Wheeling, has tapped into the college market with its adaptations of Anne Rice's "Vampire Chronicles" and the "Dark Shadows," "Lost in Space" and "Quantum Leap" television series.

"I'm not selling to a kid's market," Innovations publisher David Campiti said.

He added that adaptations of novels, movies and TV shows are the best-selling comics among college students.

One of the company's hottest books two years ago was Rice's "Vampire Chronicles" series, Campiti said. "Lost in Space" was last year's No. 1 comic, and this year, "Dark Shadows" reigns.

Making Innovation's products even more unique, Campiti tells his artists to paint the covers and panels of certain comics. He said he uses laser-scan color separation instead of the traditional line art and simple color Marvel and DC uses, he said.

Most mainstream comics are published monthly, but Campiti doesn't believe in giving his artists short deadlines.

"We're more concerned with the quality of stuff. We use slick paper and pay lots of attention to detail. That's why we come out every two months."

When adapting comics from best-selling books, Campiti said he's faithful to the original works. Most comic companies take 400-page books and dilute them into 48- to 50-page editions, but Campiti believes one page of a book should equal one comic page.

Innovation artists took Rice's "Interview with the Vampire" and told her story in 12, 32-page issues that ran for two years.

Nothing was changed from the original work, he said.

Innovations has found the key to what female audiences like. With each publication of "Quantum Leap" and "Dark Shadows," the female following for comic books increases.

Most women prefer less violent comics, he said.

"The standard belief is that 95 percent of comic collectors are male," Campiti said. "That's changing."

Although more women are buying comics, the average customer at Miller's shop is a male between the ages of 18 and 40, she said.

Now that more people are reading comics, most adults aren't ashamed to admit they buy the books that always were thought of as "kids' stuff," she said.

"Years ago, adult customers didn't want to tell their friends they read comics. Now you have

lawyers, doctors and radio and TV personalities who read them and aren't embarrassed."

Elementary school teachers frequent Miller's shop to buy their students comic books, she said. Most teachers believe kids would rather read stories about Spider-man than ones assigned from reading books, Miller said.

Coleman E. Stipes, Stafford, Va., junior, is a collector whose obsession for comic books started at the age of 12 when he began reading "G.I. Joe" comics.

Stipes now prefers comics produced by Image Corp., a company that recently broke away from Marvel. Image's comics don't cater to kids because they have what Stipes calls "PG-13 violence ratings."

"They cater toward the loose morals of society today. They portray society as dark and grim."

Stipes also said he collects "Grendel," a 10-part futuristic science-fiction comic series by Dark Horse.

The plot focuses on a community of the future that is structured like a Japanese society, he said.

But "Grendel" isn't for children, Stipes said.

"I started reading comic books when they started to get violent. I'm used to it, but you wouldn't want kids reading it."

Former Marshall student David N. Burnstine of Richmond, Va., is another comic book lover who began collecting the original "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle" comics while in seventh grade.

Since then, comic books have become as popular as baseball cards, he said.

One of Burnstine's favorite adult comic books is Neal Gaiman's "Sandman" by DC Comics.

Burnstine said Gaiman takes plots from ancient times and adapts them to comic readers' tastes in the '90s, he said.

Burnstine has read both the "Interview with the Vampire" comics and the book from which it was adapted.

He said he would rather read the comic version of the story because the book version is sometimes wordy.

"When I read comics, it makes me feel non-illiterate because I haven't read a lot of books lately," he said.

